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Juggling of Missile Data Is Charged by Symington

By JACK RAYMOND
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—Senator Stuart Symington charged today the Administration manipulated intelligence information about the military forces of the Soviet Union to

permit balancing the budget. The Missouri Democrat, potential Presidential candidate, issued a 2,000-word statement at a news conference and repeated it in a Senate speech. "The intelligence books have been juggled so the budget books may be balanced," he said. "This is a serious accusation which I make with all gravity."

The Senator insisted that the missile gap was greater than three-to-one in favor of the Russians and was still growing. He referred especially to intercontinental ballistic missiles but also included other types of missiles.

Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates Jr., on the other hand, emphasized that the reports were based on the acquisition of better information about the Soviet ICBM program. The Secretary said that a comparison with United States plans indicated a "moderate" Soviet lead in 1962.

Trip Is Put Off

Secretary Gates made his statement in a speech prepared for delivery at a Republican dinner at Portland, Ore. The speech will be read for him because the defense chief was prevented from making the cross-country trip when engine trouble delayed his commercial airliner flight.

Secretary Gates' speech disclosed that the United States second Atlas ICBM base would be combat-ready in April. A Pentagon official confirmed that the Secretary referred to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base at Cheyenne, Wyo.

The Atlas unit at Cheyenne will be in addition to the small site at Vandenberg Air Force

Base, Calif., which has been operational since last September.

Senator Symington, a former Secretary of the Air Force in the Truman Administration and a consistent critic of the defense policies of the Eisenhower Administration, called attention to his "grave" and "serious" charges at a news conference in the Senate Office Building.

Inaccurate Picture

"I charge this Administration with using intelligence information in such a manner that the American people have been given an inaccurate picture of what is necessary for our national defense," Senator Symington said.

"I regret that it is necessary for me to make this serious charge. But, because of the critical importance of this whole question to the security of the United States and the free world, I am certain that the American people have the right to know the truth," he said.

However, when a reporter asked whether in view of the gravity of the accusation he thought that President Eisenhower ought to be impeached, Senator Symington replied that would be "unthinkable."

Nor would he allow himself to be drawn into any denunciation of any individual as personally responsible for the condition he described.

Cites 1958 Meeting

The Senator cites meetings as long ago as the summer of 1958 with President Eisenhower, former Secretary of Defense Neil H. McElroy, and Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, at which he argued that the Soviet missile development was being underestimated.

The Senator recalled how his threat to reveal the "projected Soviet-United States missile situation in percentages" last year prompted the official disclosure of the estimated three-to-one missile gap behind the Russians.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Senator Stuart Symington, Missouri Democrat, at his news conference yesterday.

The Senator cited Secretary Gates' recent Congressional testimony on intelligence estimates that emphasize "what we believe he (the Soviet) probably will do, not what he is capable of doing."

"Through this process, the Administration has given the people the impression that the missile deterrent gap has been sharply reduced and possibly eliminated," the Senator said.

In fact, he went on, the Administration has not provided for the acceleration of ICBM production. The funds for ICBMs in the new budget are for an "add-on" program and not to speed existing production, he observed.

Conflict Is Seen

Passages in the Symington and Gates statements were in direct conflict as to the facts of the missile gap, Senator Symington said.

"The facts are that a very substantial missile gap does exist and the Administration apparently is going to permit this gap to increase. Even when one uses the smaller Soviet figures derived from an analysis of their intent instead of their capability."

"The truth is that if we compare the ready-to-launch missiles attributed to the Soviets on the new intelligence basis with the official readiness program for the United States ICBMs the ratio for a considerable length of time will be more than three to one."

"This is just a comparison

of our ICBM strength against their ICBM strength. This does not include our ICBM's vis-a-vis their missiles of that category—although if it did, the Soviet advantage would be even greater.

"Likewise, this comparison does not include the cruiser and submarine-launched missiles which both Russia and the United States are expected to have. If it did include such types of missiles, however, it is not revealing classified data to state that more missiles would be added to the Soviet side of the comparison than to the United States side."

Peak in 1962 Period

Secretary Gates said:

"If we compare the estimated Soviet ICBM and sea-launched missile programs with plans for deployment of United States ICBM's and Polaris missiles, we know that the Soviets may enjoy at times a moderate numerical superiority during the next three years. This difference appears to peak during the 1962 period. Our estimates indicate that before and after mid-1962 the figures are closer together."

The Defense Secretary said that the question of whether this "numerical calculation" comprised a "deterrent gap" had been "studied in considerable detail."

The conclusion, he reported, was that "even a surprise attack by all the missiles the Soviets could muster would not suffice to destroy enough of our retaliatory forces to enable their leaders to make a rational decision to attack."